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CHALLENGE

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NO JUSTICE FOR SONYA IN A KKKAPITALIST SYSTEM

Pictured left: Our class sister Sonya Massey, whose precious life was violently snuffed at 36 by unhinged, criminal kkkop Sean Grayson. Pictured right: Enraged antiracist workers marching through the streets of downtown Chicago. Sonya's last words to killer kkkop Sean Grayson were: I rebuke you in the name of Jesus. For Sonya and too many names, we must not only rebuke these racist killer kkkops, but we must grow a multiracial, class-conscious movement to raze this entire kkkapitalist system to the ground and build the antiracist, antisexist world that Sonya and her child deserve: a communist world.

CHICAGO, July 27—Nearly a dozen Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends joined hundreds of other enraged workers and youth downtown today to protest the racist and sexist kkkop lynching of Black woman worker Sonya Massey. Our multiracial and multigenerational group distributed hundreds of flyers and copies of CHALLENGE newspaper as we openly called for communist revolution as the way to get justice for Sonya and too many others whose lives have been stolen by racist capitalism.

On July 6th, Sonya Massey called the kkkops to report suspicious activity outside her home in Springfield, Illinois. The Klan-in-Blue quickly escalated the situation by entering Sonya's home and after a brief exchange, body-cam footage shows killer cop Sean Grayson fire three shots at the head of Sonya and kill her instantly.

Such a horrific display of racist police terror is rousing thousands of antiracist fighters to act in recent weeks, similarly to how the murder of Black worker George Floyd caught on video over four years ago ignited the world in militant multiracial rebellion. Like George before her, Sonya deserves to be alive today, surrounded by loving family, friends, and co-workers.

Capitalism needs racist and sexist terror to exist as much as a fish needs water. No reform – from body cameras to integrated police departments – can change this basic fact. All politicians, from Genocide Joe Biden to Top Cop Kamala Harris to gutter racist Donald Trump are going to back the role of the kkkops as fundamental in protecting the exploitation

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OUR FIGHT

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Big rulers' desperation leads to Big Facist Harris

On July 21, the big money behind the Democratic Party finally dragged Genocide Joe Biden off the election stage. The Big Fascists of finance capital were forced to act after a disastrous debate performance made it undeniable that Donald Trump and the isolationist Small Fascists behind him were poised to steamroll Biden in the fall and possibly sweep both houses of Congress. A second term for Donald Trump poses a clear threat to the main wing rulers' interests, from Ukraine and NATO to their project to draft a multiracial, patriotic military for the runup to World War III. Desperate times call for desperate measures.

With the clock ticking, the Big Fascists and their politician lackeys rallied around Vice President KK-Kamala Harris. But while the liberal bosses are trying to sell this 11th-hour switch as a fresh jolt of anti-Trump energy, and Harris has a better shot than the doddering old man she's replacing, it won't fundamentally change the dangers facing the international working class—or the opportunities to build a mass communist movement in this unstable period.

Regardless of which capitalist monster prevails in November, one thing is certain: Workers will lose. Trump has built his brand on white nationalism and racist grievance, while Harris has her own shameful history of virulent attacks against Black and Brown workers. The international crisis of capitalism will keep driving the world toward war and fascism. No election can change that. For workers, the only solution is communist revolution!

The failure of finance capital

The Big Fascist rulers are backed by the largest multinational banks—Chase, Bank of America, Citi—as well as the big auto and airline bosses, Wall Street powers like Goldman Sachs, and the largest tech bosses, including Google and Microsoft. Harris also has the lion's share of U.S. billionaires on her side, including Melinda French Gates, Blackstone's Jonathan Gray, and George Soros (Forbes, 7/30). For the last thirty years and more, this camp has overseen the decline of U.S. capitalism, a loss of control over the oil-rich Middle East, and the rise of the Chinese ruling class. In response, they have devastated workers in the U.S. and around the world.

The U.S. has decayed into a deindustrialized shell with the disgustingly ultra-wealthy on the one hand and low-wage workers with rotten health care and terrible education on the other. From Democrats like Biden and Obama to main wing Republicans like the Bushes, the presidents backed by finance capital have helped steer U.S. imperialism to the brink of collapse while killing millions in one failed war after the next. Bosses around the world are turning to protectionist tariffs and trade wars, exorbitant military buildups, and volatile shifting alliances. From the U.S. to Europe, hyper-nationalist Small Fascists are building openly fascist mass movements on the backs of the liberal bosses' failed promises.

Kamala Harris: front woman for rising fascism

The fall of U.S. finance capital was inevitable. The die was cast when the rulers' headlong pursuit of maximum profit led to massive deindustrialization, the loss of 30 million stable, decent-paying jobs, and extreme racist inequality. Hence the devastation of the U.S. working class, Trump's isolationism and gutter racist scapegoating, and a violent split within the U.S. ruling class.

The Big Fascist bosses have punched back with intensified racism and their own appeals to U.S. nationalism, a precursor to war and fascist repression. As their loyal front woman, Harris has backed Israeli genocide in Gaza bomb by bomb. When mass murderer Benjamin Netanyahu came to address the U.S. Congress, Harris met with him personally while denouncing anti-war protesters. As Biden's point person to brutally lock down the U.S. border with Mexico, she has worked to triple the number of jailed migrants and fuel the growth of a huge private prison industry. She may be less confused than Biden, but she is no less vicious.

Previously, as San Francisco's district attorney and California's attorney general, Harris bears direct responsibility for helping to fill the country's overcrowded jails, protect kkkiller cops, and keep workers incarcerated with false evidence while denying parole to those held for minor crimes (Miami Herald, 10/28/2020). She concealed wrongdoing by prosecutors under her charge (New York Times, 1/17/2019). She has destroyed countless Black and Brown families whose husbands and fathers are wrongfully imprisoned. With her track record for thwarting independent investigations of police shootings, it may be no coincidence that the number of people killed by cops—disproportionately Black workers—has risen each year of the Biden-Harris administration (Statista.com).

The Harris legacy can be seen in the brutal July 6 police murder of Sonya Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman, in her own home in Illinois. We know what happened there only because of the cop's body camera—another reform Harris fought against.

Don't vote, revolt!

No matter what the Democrats say, the coming U.S. election isn't a choice between fascism and liberal democracy, where the bosses' dictatorship is veiled by "free" elections and other phony freedoms. No matter who wins, the future of U.S. capitalism is fascism—the bosses will have no choice. Whether it's Trump or Harris, the next U.S. president will be up against the rising dominance of Chinese industry, the erosion of the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency, and a global debt bubble ready to pop. Possibly sooner than later, the bosses will decide they can no longer govern in the old way. The velvet glove will come off their iron fist.

For the working class, the real choice is between fascism and communist revolution. We know that both Democrats and Republicans will keep backing the slaughter in Gaza and the West Bank, and more genocides to come. Both will keep siccing their killer cops on Black workers and youth. There is no lesser evil on November's ballot—only evil. Don't vote, revolt! Fight for communism!

Collapsing capitalist democracy: a symptom of rising fascism

One sign of growing fascism is the collapse of the backbone of liberal democracy: ruling class institutions. In fact, the finance capital Big Fascists have themselves wrecked these institutions. According to Wikileaks, they pushed for Trump to be the Republican nominee in 2016 because they saw him as the weakest opponent for Hillary Clinton—a strategy that backfired (The Observer, 10/10/2016). Then the Big Fascists denounced their own electoral system for having been rigged by the Russians. When Trump hijacked the Supreme Court with Small Fascist appointees, the main wing denounced the Court as corrupt. In two failed attempts to oust Trump as president, they denounced the presidency and impeached him. Then they denounced the head of the Senate for Trump's acquittal; now they've denounced the leadership of the House. With finance capital's chaos and decay opening the door to the Small Fascists fronted by Trump, the bosses' institutions have credibility only for the side that runs them at the moment. Fascism is all that's left to hold the rotten capitalist system together. Both Harris and Trump are ready and willing to help build it.

Milwaukee, Wi

For Samuel Sharpe, shut this racist system down

MILWAUKEE, July 16—Members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) joined scores of enraged community members to protest the racist murder of Samuel Sharpe just hours after five Ohio killer KKKops shot him eight times in the back. Samuel's friends and neighbors told us that the cops were 30 feet away and that he may have been in the midst of a mental health crisis when the police killed him. Samuel was displaced and living in an encampment near where he was murdered.

Under capitalism, the police exist to protect the bosses' property and serve the ruling class. In this case, 4000 extra police officers from outside the city flooded Milwaukee to, as a neighbor put it, "protect a rich Republican" (WISN12.com, 7/11). Displacement is a byproduct of the capitalist need to profit from the ownership and sale of private property. It is displaced workers like Samuel that are victimized all over the world by these profit- driven schemes and puts them at a higher risk of being terrorized by the police.

We responded quickly to Samuel Sharpe's murder and arrived at the crime scene around two hours after Samuel was shot. His friends and neighbors were outraged at the dozens of cops with machine guns who had blocked off the area. One of his friends said, "They got that yellow tape so they can investigate themselves and cover their tracks!"

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) waves the red flag at the vigil for Samuel Sharpe on July 16. PLP injected revolutionary communist politics and chants that altered the reformist character of the march.

No good cops in a racist system

Once we made it clear that we were not reporters, workers were very receptive to CHALLENGE and shared sharp ideas about what had happened to their friend. They expressed anger that Samuel's murderers, the Columbus, Ohio Police Department, were only here in the first place for the RNC and explained that there had been encampment evictions in the area not long before the murder. Many agreed that neither Democrats or Republicans will change conditions for workers, and some spoke of the need for multiracial unity. One of Samuel's neighbors blasted N.W.A.'s "F— Tha Police" from their car while we had political conversations.

Some of Samuel's neighbors argued that Milwaukee, not Ohio kkkops should have been in the neighborhood. All KKKops serve as the bosses' army, and all terrorize the working class. The hands of Milwaukee police officers are just as drenched in blood–they murdered Sylville Smith in 2016 and Dontre Hamilton in 2014.

Liberal misleaders hold back the working class!

Later at a vigil and protest, liberal misleaders did their best to redirect the anger of the working class into reformist politics. The leader of the vigil, who did not know Samuel, refused to let a PLP comrade speak saying he was not "from the community" and criticized "outsiders" claiming they are not willing to visit the encampments (we did!). He then let someone from Philadelphia speak while shutting down a distraught worker who witnessed the shooting. As this worker yelled in anguish, "He had his hands up! I've got it on my phone," the vigil leaders surrounded him and drowned him out with chants.

The family of D'vontaye Mitchell, another Black worker murdered by Hyatt hotel security for no reason other than being a Black man living under racist capitalism, came to the protest in solidarity. But the vigil leaders did not allow them to speak either.

It's clear from the mass deployment of KKKops to Milwaukee that the bosses and their servants know no borders. Neither should workers! In the fight for communism and collective liberation, no worker is an outsider. None of us are free until we are all free, and the end to police murder is impossible without the efforts of the international working class.

Workers want and deserve more!

During the march PLP members passed out CHALLENGE. Other comrades sharpened the politics of the reformists' chants, which got a positive reception. Instead of "What do we want? Community control!" we chanted "What do we want? Revolution!" Even without a bullhorn, our chants were often the loudest in the crowd. Police drones and helicopters flew overhead, and representatives of the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service were there to "keep the heat down," which really means to control working class anger about state murder! As we ended the march, one comrade led us in a rousing and energetic, "Fight back, fight back, we want freedom, freedom! All these racist killer cops-– we don't need em, need em!" It was evident that workers want more than reforms and performative rituals. Join us in the fight that workers need and deserve—the fight for communism and a world free of police murder, genocide, and ruling class elections. Join Progressive Labor Party!

No justice for Sonya in a kkkapitalist system

Continued from page 1

and inequality of the profit system.Those of us in PLP are calling for another system entirely: a worker-run communist society without profits, borders, or killer cops. We want to build an international movement of millions of workers, soldiers and youth to smash this rotten system for good! Capitalism murdered Sonya Massey – Let's fight for communism to end capitalism!

Take the streets, shut it down for Sonya

After about an hour and a half of speeches in the downtown rally space, the organizers of the event lined up to march. Although there were some correct statements made by some reformist groups connecting Sonya's murder to the imperialist slaughter in Gaza and the upcoming Democratic National Convention here next month, they failed to point out that racism and war are inevitable realities of capitalism. In this, PLP was alone in calling for the necessary violent overthrow of the system by the international working class.

Self-critically, our collective didn't plan ahead to stay for the march and give more revolutionary and communist speeches and chants using our bullhorn within. Thankfully however, one comrade was able to stick around for the march and took the opportunity to speak once it was finished and share our political line:

"This police murder, that's a problem of capitalism. So, if we want to end racism…that's all a part of the same struggle. It's an international struggle. When we see it like that, we're much more powerful than we are when we just see ourselves as individuals struggling by ourselves. Because we're not struggling by ourselves. We're all struggling, whether we're working together or not. So, if we're going to struggle individually, we might as well just struggle together!

The reason why we say racism is so connected to capitalism is because the money that we need to survive distracts us from the fact that humans are wired to help one another. We're wired to be in community with one another, and we need to understand that because our belief and our understanding that a better world is possible, is what MAKES a better world possible. Fight for communism! End capitalism and racism!"

PLP is the fighting alternative to this racist system

To honor the memory of Sonya, PLP pledges to sharpen the fight against this killer capitalist system. The bosses rushed to fire Grayson and charge him with first-degree murder, but the capitalist legal system gives no guarantee that he won't beat the charges and either way kkkops are certain to strike again. Already, they're dispatching their usual misleader suspects like Al Sharpton and Benjamin Crump to try and pacify more militant fightback.

The contradictions of the system are exploding out into the open, with rising fascism, threats of imperialist war, and devastating climate crisis worsening daily. The bosses' usual toolkit of diverting working-class anger through elections and identity politics is faltering, but many of our class don't yet see an alternative.

PLP is that fighting alternative to build a new collective society! Join us as we march, shout, and shut it down for Sonya and too many other working-class people taken from us by this rotten system. Communism means abolishing racism and sexism! Let's fight for working-class power now!

Educators organize vs. genocide-complicit NEA

July 3, 2024—Philadelphia, PA—Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends joined other members of the National Education Association (NEA), for their annual convention. On the agenda were several new business items (NBIs) related to Palestine that education workers have been fighting for including specifically teaching about the Nakba and genocide, undoing the NEA's endorsement of Genocide Joe Biden for president, building solidarity between education workers and anti-genocide protesters, and calling for more funding for education instead of war.

We have been struggling against war budgets in one district where they were underfunded by $55 million but managed to contribute more than $400 million for nuclear weapons to weapons manufacturer Lockheed Martin. Then the district laid off teachers, closed its virtual academy, and cut back pre-kindergarten programs. Just another example of the priorities of capitalism to fund profit and imperialist wars over educating working class children. PLP linked their local struggles to the struggle against capitalism which can only be destroyed by organizing workers for a communist revolution.

Rally against genocide

To kick-off the convention, attendees organized a rally and march in support of the NBIs and against the genocide in Palestine. The rally was inspirational and energetic. The multiracial group of educators held signs, flags and wore keffiyehs in support of the proposed NBIs. Zionists staged a counter-rally a mere 50 feet from us, where they were (of course) protected by the police. At our rally, each NBI proposer came to the microphone to explain the rationale and importance of their proposal to cheers and applause. Jewish teachers spoke passionately about their support for the end of the genocide. A PLP member spoke about attempting to pass a ceasefire resolution in their local union that was ruled "out of order"(CHALLENGE,3/16). When they denounced capitalism and made the call for the working class to break free and create a new life, where we would all get what we need, the crowd applauded and shouted words of support.

As the Zionist counter protests became louder, the speaker yelled at them to shut up! Our group showed that we were unafraid and ready to fight back. They ended the speech with the chant "Arab, Jewish, Black, white, Latin, and Asian - to free Palestine and all nations we must unite!" Other PLP members distributed about 30 CHALLENGES headlined "Communism is Liberation." A leaflet also detailed the demands of teachers who are fighting back against false charges of antisemitism because of their support for Palestine and criticism of the U.S. and Israel's role in the genocide.

After a few more teachers spoke, it was time to march! The multiracial, multi-generational group of educators marched enthusiastically through the streets of Philadelphia chanting, "Not another nickel, not another dime, no more money for Israel's crimes!" and "Not another penny, not another quarter, no more money for Israel's slaughter." At the park, we engaged in more chants and then heard from teachers who have been experiencing repercussions for speaking out against the war. One teacher's students created a podcast to discuss the genocide in Gaza and, despite being approved by the administration, another teacher leaked the students' photos and address to dangerous Zionist groups. Two more teachers talked about their experiences of being placed on administrative leave for speaking or posting in support of Palestine and against the ruling class of Israel and the IDF.

Convention canceled

Fortunately, the conference did not go on as planned; it was shut down by the workers who make the NEA, and the imperialist system it defends run, so none of the NBIs were debated. Conferences like these provide an opportunity to advocate for our class siblings in Palestine, and also to meet and befriend more educators who are interested in good causes and with whom we can discuss alternatives to capitalism.

We need to continue to bring our message of antiracist, working-class solidarity and class war against the capitalists. A united working class is an unstoppable force that can truly make a change. Joining the PLP is the way to create worker unity and topple capitalism once and for all! Power to the working class! Join us!

79th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The lies and facts of bosses' nuclear genocide

This August marks the 79th anniversary of the single most murderous act of terrorism in world history when the U.S. ruling class—the only rulers to ever use nuclear bombs—dropped atomic bombs on two civilian Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. This obliterated a quarter of a million Japanese civilians in a matter of seconds, injured hundreds of thousands more, and left future generations with everlasting genetic defects.

The racist U.S. rulers launched this heinous attack as a political warning to the then-socialist Soviet Union, signaling U.S. imperialism's launching of the Cold War. Capitalists will stop at nothing when their domination is at stake. This is the natural outcome of a system rooted in the violence of exploitation.

Today capitalist violence is worldwide and growing. Workers are being slaughtered in profiteering wars from Gaza to Sudan to Ukraine. And the imperialist powers are preparing for world war to redivide the world for plunder. The working class instead needs to turn their guns on the imperialist bosses. Then we can build a world based on human need. For that, we need millions worldwide to organize under an international communist party, Progressive Labor Party (PLP,) to turn the next capitalist atrocity and war into a class war for communism.

The lies and the reality

For over seven decades, U.S. rulers have tried to justify the A-bomb attacks by maintaining they were needed to force Japan's surrender and avoid a U.S. land invasion and a million U.S. casualties. In reality, Japan's rulers were ready to surrender before Hiroshima:

• According to the United States Strategic Bombing Survey, a board of military and civilian experts established by U.S. Secretary of War Henry Stimson, "Certainly…in all probability prior to November 1945, Japan would have surrendered even if the atomic bomb had not been dropped…and even if no invasion had been planned or contemplated."

• A million lives were not saved. Indeed, McGeorge Bundy, later the U.S. National Security Adviser, "confessed that he had pulled those numbers out of the air to justify the bombings" (LA Times, 8/5/2005).

• By the spring of 1945, Japan's entire industrial and military machine had ground to a halt, severing its oil lifeline. By June, U.S. Air Force General Curtis LeMay complained that there was nothing left to bomb in Japanese cities except "garbage can targets."

• General Douglas MacArthur, U.S. Pacific commander, considered the A-bombs "completely unnecessary from a military point of view" (James Clayton, The Years of MacArthur, 1941-1945, Vol. II).

A genocide aimed at the USSR

If overwhelming evidence shows that the genocide at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was militarily unnecessary, and that Japan was on the verge of unconditional surrender, why did President Harry Truman order the A-bombs dropped?

The true purpose was to warn the then-socialist Soviet Union that the U.S. had a new and devastating weapon, and was ready to use it against any threat to the U.S. imperialists' world dominance. The obliteration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki signaled the beginning of the Cold War between capitalists in the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Some supporting evidence:

• With the Soviet Red Army ready to enter the war against Japan by August 8, the U.S. rushed to use the bomb two days earlier, to play what Stimson referred to as a "mastercard": "Let our actions speak for words. The Russians will understand them better than anything else.…We have to regain the lead…in a pretty rough and realistic way.…We have coming into action a weapon which will be unique" (Stimson diary).

• In an implicit indictment of the liberal Democrat Truman administration, Leo Szilard, creator of the the idea of a nuclear fission reactor said, "If the Germans had dropped atomic bombs on cities…we would have defined [it]…as a war crime, and we would have sentenced the Germans who were guilty of this crime to death at Nuremberg and hanged them."

The lesson of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is that the U.S. ruling class will stop at nothing to preserve its state power and profit. Which means the next world war is only a matter of time (see editorial, page 2). It remains for the international working class to mete out justice to the most murderous criminals the world has ever known.

Workers' red salute to Attica rebellion

Workers in Attica, New York raise their fists in rebellion against a fascist prison system. Today, liberal fascists like Kamala Harris oversee the largest prison system in history.

This article is reprinted from the September 28, 2016 issue of CHALLENGE. Although September 9, 1971, marks the beginning of the Attica Prison Rebellion, this month we commemorate Black August, a holiday honoring the bravery and sacrifice of the Attica prisoners, as well as the bold and militant leadership of Black workers from the prison galleys to the streets around the world, fighting against the imperialist system and its violently racist policies.

Today, the U.S. imprisons more workers than any other country in the world. More than 2 million-primarily working-class blacks-are incarcerated. This is a 500% increase since 1973, equivalent to 5% of the world's population (American Civil Liberties Union). This is no accident; mass incarceration is one of the racist tools used by the bosses to solve the crisis of their declining system. The rulers use prisons to extract racist super-profits from the near enslavement of black workers, while maintaining a surplus of marginalized unemployed workers whom they deprive of benefits and jobs. More importantly, the rulers use prisons as a means of crushing black worker revolutionary potential and the unity of the working class.

The exponential growth of mass incarceration was the result of the U.S. rulers' manufactured war on drugs, which they saw as their solution to the Black worker-led rebellions of the 1960s and 1970s. With the rise of racist murders of workers in prisons - from Rikers Island in New York to the Elmore County jail in Alabama - the Attica jail rebellion remains tragically relevant. Liberal rulers are trying to scare working people into voting Democratic with the prospect of a Trump presidency and Project 2025. The mass incarceration policies they warn are coming with Project 2025 are already here, thanks to a long list of Democrats, including Big Fascists Joe Biden and Kamala Harris (see editorial on page 2 and glossary on page 6). Then as now black workers remain central to working-class liberation as the key fighting force for communist revolution.

> ***Not only are conditions worse today than they were during Attica,... Attica once again.... is synonymous with prisoner resistance.***
>
> —Heather Ann Thompson, history professor at the University of Michigan, (Jacobin, 9/9)

Fifty-three years ago, Black imprisoned workers led their white and Latin counterparts in a rebellion against the racist deplorable conditions at Attica prison in northwestern New York State. Today prisoners nationwide are organizing once again. Capitalism is a never-ending disaster. For workers, students and prisoners worldwide only communism is a solution: a world without racism, sexism or imperialist wars.

Concentration camp

In September of 1971, the conditions at Attica prison in the northwest corner of New York State were brutal. Inmates suffered from starving bellies, untreated infections, falling teeth, lack of toilet paper, and showers only once a week often without any soap (Jacobin, 9/9). With about 2,300 inmates, Attica was overcrowded to almost twice its capacity. The prisoner population was 54 percent Black, 9 percent Puerto Rican and 37 percent white. All 383 guards were white.

So the prisoners organized. They read Marx and Frantz Fanon. They formed the Attica Liberation Faction uniting different political groupings. They had educational rap sessions in the prison yard. They put together demands for improved conditions and sent them to state, city and prison officials. All demands for change by the prisoners were ignored.

Rebellion

After a prisoner fought back against a brutal guard, the prison bosses ordered a crackdown that led to a violent fight. The prison guard was beaten and eventually died. But a small group of more politicized prisoners immediately changed it into an organized rebellion. Meetings were held, demands were discussed and formulated, and leaders were chosen. A central part of the prison called Times Square was fortified. They chose a negotiation committee. They figured out how to feed 1,300 people and obtained medical care for those most in need.

Rockefeller's fascist savagery

But New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller and various authorities were not interested in negotiations. They had a two-pronged racist strategy: spread vicious lies about the rebellious prisoners and viciously attack them as soon as possible. Both the media and various officials spread racist lies about supposed atrocities committed by the rebels, including slitting the throats of the hostages. The attack by the state involved hundreds of state cops, National Guardsmen, and both current and former prison guards. They were handed weapons from a supply truck without regard to serial numbers and they had their own personal weapons.

Road to mass incarceration

The attack started with a gas that incapacitated the rebelling prisoners. This was followed by fifteen minutes of indiscriminate shooting that slaughtered 29 prisoners and 9 guards. After the prison was totally secured, four more prisoners-leaders of the rebellion-were hunted down and killed. That was followed by vicious beatings, torture and no medical care. Heather Ann Thompson: "In the aftermath is when the real brutality begins. The doctors are trying to help prisoners, while guards are dumping them off of stretchers, kicking them, urinating into wounds, making the most horrific scene unfold." (Democracy Now, 7/9).

President Richard "Nixon repeatedly assured Rockefeller he did the right thing, because Attica was "the Blacks," and part of a nationwide conspiracy by the communists and Black radicals to undermine [U.S.]" (truth-out, 9/9). Within a year, Rockefeller enacted a law that formed the seeds of the "war on drugs" (racist war on workers) operation.

Attica scared the bosses, and they reacted with more terrorization of the Black and Latin working class. In 1970, the year before Attica, there were nearly 200,000 people in prison. By 2015, that number was 2.3 million people, a 400 percent increase in the rate of incarceration (Five-Thirty-Eight, 2/12/16).

Attica is a symbol of working-class rebellion and viciously racist aftermath. Attica today means fightback against racist state terror.

Prisons can be a site of struggle and fightback. At the Kinross Correctional Facility in Michigan 400 prisoners protested today to commemorate Attica. And more are organizing again against deplorable prison conditions throughout the country. Nationwide protests are growing against racism and sexism. More than ever, we need to fight for communism to end these capitalist atrocities once and for all.

LETTERS

We encourage <u>all</u> CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Chiapas: migrant caravan needs antiracist solidarity

A new multinational caravan of migrants has just left Chiapas to travel through Mexican territory and reach the border with the United States to see if they can cross. They are humble, hard working people, women and children full of dust and sweat, thirsty and hungry, many of them possibly sick, but all with the same goal, to reach U.S. territory to have a better life and get a job to help the families they leave behind. Meanwhile, President Joe Biden signs an executive order to deport on the spot those who do not meet the requirements for asylum and other measures comparable to that of former President Donald Trump, whom he vehemently criticized when, during his term, he took horrible measures against migrants, especially those coming from Latin America, the Middle East and Asia.

We are at a point within the territory, with the arrival of hundreds of migrants who entered during this period that most of them are in limbo, hundreds of them in shelters, others on the streets homeless without work and without a permit to work, so what do we do? What do our community organizations in which we are involved do to help our immigrant brothers and sisters? There is a great silence. No one says anything; there are no actions, no calls for protest actions in favor of our brothers who are fleeing their countries, hoping to have a better future in the so-called land of liberty and freedom.

A land in which they are super-exploited and where bosses use lies that migrants steal jobs from Black and Latin who are already here. In this period in which they are scapegoating migrants to win electoral votes. Trump is threatening to carry out mass deportations and liberals quietly promise the same.

All this leads us to think and to assure that neither one party nor the other, that there is no lesser evil candidate. Regardless of who wins, it is a lose-lose situation for our class siblings who are fleeing from the countries, the vast majority of which were former colonies, plundered and exploited by the colonizers. After centuries of slavery and exploitation, these countries are still suffering the horror of capitalism, imperialism and fascism that is exported from the developed capitalist countries,whose working class is also suffering the horror of exploitation and fascism of the bosses, who repress any sign of uprising and protests to ensure their political and economic interests.

Therefore the only way to resolve this horror, is to organize and fight within community organizations, industries and wherever our Party can organize and grow, until we become a mass party, ready to lead the international working class to make communist revolution and establish workers' power which will liquidate once and for all the borders that separate us, resolve all the needs of the working class and build a better world for all and where we will give the final burial to capitalism and imperialism.

Oppose "beautiful" (profitable) Bloomington

On July 17th, four comrades visited the Southside camps in Bloomington, Indiana. Located along the B-Line trail, these camps demonstrate the indomitable spirit of the most oppressed citizens in Bloomington. Community thrives even while this system does its utmost to destroy the spirit of the people. While the city claims to be the most progressive and liberal town in Southern Indiana, we see the true nature of Mayor KKKerry Thomson and the kkkops. Bloomington relies

on the influx of 40,000 students to Indiana State University-Bloomington, marketed as the "most beautiful campus in the world" to make its profits. As such, the city must follow suit and make Bloomington as a whole "beautiful". But, we know that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and the only thing a capitalist has eyes for is profit. Therefore, in order to make Bloomington as "beautiful" (profitable) as possible, the impoverished must be hidden from view. And so, before all the impressionable students come back to town, the City "cleans up town".

An eviction notice has been served and the Bloomington Pig Department will take action on August 3rd, but we will not let them do so in silence. From this park to the next, they are being told that they can't be here, nor there. Meanwhile, more and more cheaply built, overpriced apartment complexes are built to hold more students, and generate more profit. This process is a continuation of the settler-colonial project called Amerikkka and is not dissimilar to the plight of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the rest of the occupied territories.

We must come together in defense of the oppressed masses of the world. This depraved system must not be allowed to continue its violent attacks on our communities! Comrades, we can only defend the people through a violent destruction of the capitalist system that keeps us in chains. There is no time left to discuss long term strategy. We must be prepared for what is to come!

MTA: Racist speed-up & terror tactics kill worker

During a recent training practical for new train operators in New York City, a student train operator collapsed. He was taken to a nearby hospital where officials later pronounced him dead.

This, however, wasn't just some tragic isolated incident. The racist environment surrounding the majority Black and Latin workers for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the agency that operates the city's trains and buses, undoubtedly played a role.

Before the operator collapsed while taking the practical, he told supervisors he was feeling very anxious.

While his cause of death has not been revealed as of this writing, many transit workers who have endured the stressful training practices the MTA forces its new hires through can relate to how he felt before his exam.

From the beginning of training throughout, the focus is on scaring new train operators through fear based tactics. They're constantly told they will be severely punished or even fired for the smallest infractions--a complete lie. Some supervisors tell new recruits that half of them will not make it.

This is completely normalized as, "It's just how it is down here."

Couple that experience with the MTA bosses cutting training time to push more operators out faster, due to the Covid hiring freeze THEY implemented, and giving a signal exam train operators are supposed to get a perfect score on (or possibly be fired), and you have a recipe for incidents like this worker's passing.

This shift in the training process represents MTA bosses' efforts to speed up train service off the back of their workforce, our lives and health be damned. During the pandemic, the MTA shortened train operator training by seven to eight weeks.

TWU Local 100, the union that represents NYC transit workers, is in bed with the bosses, and has done little to nothing to address the way train operators are trained, or treated on the job. They have also worked with management to force more train trips into the operating schedules, leaving operators with less recovery time between their runs. While operating in and of itself isn't necessarily physically demanding, it can be mentally strenuous. Operators have to be mindful of safe operation to ensure passengers aren't thrown around the train, signal and track conditions on the route, and passengers on the station platforms as well. Several things can go wrong if we aren't paying complete attention to the task at hand. Consequently, sufficient breaks after each trip are necessary to properly reset before making the next departure to the other terminal. Less break time leads to an increased likelihood of making mistakes, and receiving "plantation justice" (a term some in Transit have coined for the racist punishments MTA workers receive for infractions).

The job environment can put an immense strain on workers' bodies. Many of our crew rooms are filthy and hazardous, with conditions such as mold and even silica dust. Many die shortly after retirement. It's not uncommon for those who survive to suffer from ailments such as carpal tunnel, shoulder issues and knee problems in later years. The transit bosses will give their crocodile tears over this young worker literally getting stressed to death, then continue on with business as usual.

It's clear that MTA workers and all workers need a better alternative that takes our lives into consideration, and that's one where we don't generate profit for the ruling class, but one where we collectively work to better the world for one another-communism.

Book review doesn't mention I'm in PLP!

The review of Anti-Racism as Communism left out two important things. The author is proud to have been a member of Progressive Labor Party for 52+ years. The book is dedicated to two collectives from whom I came to my understanding of racism and how to end it: the students I have known at Chicago State University and my comrades in the Progressive Labor Party.

Define to fight it

Capitalists compete by any means necessary. Much like smaller criminal gangs, different groups of capitalists battle one another to secure territory, resources, and exploitable labor–the basis of their profits. They have created **the state** as a mechanism to manage and protect this ruthless profit-driven system. Through laws, police, prisons, elections, the military, schools, the media, and other institutions, the bosses have built a dictatorship to keep themselves in power—and keep the working class out of power.

Fascism is a stage of late capitalism in crisis where the liberal democratic veil peels away to reveal a rotting dictatorship. The bosses use state terror to discipline their own class and enforce compliance by the working class–both essential conditions for waging global war. Fascism is marked by more direct and centralized rule, with intensified racism, sexism, and nationalism.

The **Big Fascists** are the dominant finance capitalists, principally the multinational banks and oil companies (JPMorganChase, ExxonMobil). They're trying to build a multiracial, patriotic coalition to back U.S. imperialism and protect their far-flung profits. This is the wing that plays the drums of World War III.

The **Small Fascists** are mostly domestically oriented capitalists, spearheaded by the Koch, Mercer, DeVos, and Coors families, along with Richard Mellon Scaife, Harry and Lynde Bradley, John Olin, Peter Thiel, Elon Musk, Rupert Murdoch and a cast of other billionaires. They want to cut taxes for short-term profits and are reluctant to invest in costly ground wars to defend the global U.S. empire. Their agenda includes a racist gutting of social services at home and a retreat from U.S. imperialist alliances, including NATO.

Letter: our adventures in the anti-RNC project

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found out that a Black worker was murdered by hotel security and that family members of both murdered men were going to be there. Despite just hearing about these murders that morning, the Party was on the go! We were all over the place this week, very flexible, jumping into action very quickly. It was intense and bold on a level that Appalachian comrades weren't used to. My initial thought was that Ohio state cops murdering an already-displaced Samuel Sharpe outside their jurisdiction (when their one job was to be at the RNC) would be a bad look for them. But the bosses and their cops know no borders! Neither should workers! We should resist letting them sweep workers away like we're trash before their circus events! Cops claimed they saw Sharpe's knife when they were 30 feet away. But the KKKops pulled guns out before confirming a weapon and ran up on him and murdered him. Using the justification of having a small knife, F___ that! That man was living in a tent and had nothing. His homie said they shot him on the sidewalk, moved the body to the grass then moved it back. "They got that yellow tape so they can investigate themselves and cover up their tracks!" he said.

The workers living in the encampment were militant towards the bosses' media and solid with each other. They told us to "get on outta here" until we said we're not reporters. One said, "I got information but you ain't gonna get it without some money!" But they quickly opened up when we showed solidarity, and the same guy ended up asking us for a paper! They all took copies of CHALLENGE. We had conscious political conversations near the yellow tape where the KKKops could hear "F___ Tha Police!" blasting from their car. The encampment had a community garden. One man told us that "when you're living like that y'all gotta take care of and protect each other, collectively." A man with a walker said, "And these are the people who supposed to protect us?" A comrade responded, "They protect the rich!" He laughed "right!" and dapped us up. A woman walking from across the street saw our numbers and must have known we were Org'd up. "Power to the people!, she yelled. I ran over there and gave her CHALLENGE before we dapped everybody up and headed back to the hotel in preparation for the dual-racist murder protests later that night. During the vigil we chalked the wall "racism means we got to fight back" with the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) logo.

I was also interviewed by Hot 91 and promoted the

Workers need a society run by workers for workers, and not by the Big Fascist and Small Fascist billionaires and the politicians that serve them.

necessity of the working-class revolution.There were choppers and drones and a cop car sitting in the hotel parking lot specifically to spy on us. PL'ers were leading pro-worker chants and some of members from Party for Socialism Liberation (PSL) and other revisionist groups who were open to us joined in. I spoke to a couple of PSL members here and there. After overhearing one of them saying the Nazis are in Tennessee again, I asked him if he'd like a paper. "We're here internationally but I'm from Kentucky so that's just the kinda fascism we're dealing with" (and I'm from Brooklyn! a comrade behind me interjects). He declined the paper, then thought about it silently after I said that and was like, alright, and took a copy.

Meanwhile, comrades were breaking off from the march to the sidewalk to hand out CHALLENGE to the community, leaving them on porches and fences. I ran across the street to an apartment complex, their windows were open and people in every apartment were cheering for us. One raised up her CHALLENGE yelling, "I already got it!" LOL! Good work PLP!

Watered-down liberal misleaders hold back the working class, trying to shut down our chants as well as trying to shut down a distraught and grieving Black worker who witnessed the shooting. "He had his hands up! I've got it on my phone!" Our chants were louder than the liberal crowd and they had a bullhorn!

In Appalachia, we can win poor white workers to communist ideas with little resistance. Our main danger comes in the form of revisionist, liberal misleaders. The revisionist would've compared the socially conservative views of Appalachian workers to the ideas we heard today and say, "At least they're starting to become radical". We don't need merely "radical". The working class need state power! We need communism! Smash identity opportunism! We dealt with it at home so we know it when we see it. The liberals talked about "outsiders", how they're not willing to visit the encampments (but we did! They are our brothers and sisters!). Then they let one "outsider" speak while isolating the worker who lived there and witnessed the shooting trying to tell the crowd about the cover up! Under PLP leadership no worker is an outsider, we are all right there with our comrades in Gaza! Palestinian liberation is impossible without the international working class refusing to collectively make and ship the bombs to the Zionist fascists!

The working class is open to our revolutionary anti-racist ideas and militancy, so let's keep it up as we move on to the Democratic National Convention!

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Israeli fascists continue murdering Palestinian civilians

Al Jazeera, 7/27–The Israeli military has issued new evacuation orders in southern Gaza's Khan Younis that further expand into an area where displaced Palestinians have been forced to shelter while killing dozens in an attack on a hospital in the centre of the enclave…The Khan Younis invasion displaced at least 180,000 Palestinians in the first four days since it was launched, with many having to move without their belongings, according to the United Nations…an air attack killed many people inside a home in the area on Saturday morning before the Israeli military ordered the latest mass evacuation…Israeli artillery shelling has been targeting the town of Bani Suheila, east of Khan Younis…The Israeli military launched a huge attack on a field hospital established in a school in Deir el-Balah, killing at least 30 Palestinians and wounding dozens, according to Gaza's Ministry of Health… three missiles were fired from fighter jets at the Khadija School…The enclave's civil defence organisation said the school, the latest of many to be hit this month alone, was housing 4,000 displaced Palestinians…

D.R. Congo workers suffer from foreign interventions

Foreign Affair, 7/26–Last year, the conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo turned 30. It is a grim milestone…the war in Congo has excelled at evading international recognition…Today, more than seven million Congolese are displaced, more than at any other time in history, and yet the war still barely features in global media…There are more than 100 different armed actors fighting in the east, most of which are pursuing separate ends. The M23 itself, however, is easier to grapple with. The group is largely funded and trained by Rwanda, which sees the organization as a way to project power and gain access to Congo's resources…Congolese officials have also invited Burundi, Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania to send troops into its eastern region for assistance. The conflict, in other words, is transforming from a low-grade internal clash to an expanding interstate and communal war.

U.S. and Russian bosses prepare for direct conflict

The Guardian, 7/28–Vladimir Putin has warned the US that if Washington deploys long-range missiles in Germany from 2026, Russia will station similar missiles within striking distance of the west. The US would start deploying long-range fire capabilities in Germany in 2026…The US's "episodic deployments" are in preparation for longer-term stationing of such capabilities that will include SM-6 and Tomahawk cruise missiles and developmental hypersonic weapons that have a longer range than current capabilities in Europe, Washington and Berlin said.

In a speech…Putin told the US it risked triggering a cold war-style missile crisis with the move. "The flight time to targets on our territory of such missiles, which in the future may be equipped with nuclear warheads, will be about 10 minutes," Putin said. "We will take mirror measures to deploy, taking into account the actions of the United States, its satellites in Europe and in other regions of the world."

War preparations continue in Asia

Nikkei Asia, 7/29–Foreign ministers from Australia, India, Japan and the U.S. stressed unity and vowed to expand collaboration on cyber and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific at a meeting in Tokyo on Monday, which U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken hailed as "a moment of unprecedented strategic alignment"... The statement did not directly name China, but came as Beijing launched a series of military drills in the seas around Taiwan in May, and stepped up joint military activities with Russia in the South China Sea earlier this month. "This is a moment of unprecedented strategic alignment among our four countries," Blinken said…

The four-way gathering followed a "two-plus-two" session between foreign and defense ministers from Japan and the U.S. on Sunday. The two nations agreed to closer collaboration between their defense forces in the Indo-Pacific -- including a revamping of how U.S. forces are organized in Japan -- and a renewed bilateral focus on Japan's southwestern islands located close to Taiwan.

RED PROJECT AGAINST RNC

TRUMP & BIDEN— RACIST TERROR IS THE NAME OF THEIR GAME

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends provide leadership at the protest against the Small Fascist, Republican National Convention (RNC) in Downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Republican National Convention (RNC) has never been a welcoming place for communists. With Trump being shot two days prior to the start of the RNC, the stakes were even higher. During a tense time and an extremely hot day, 20 Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends were able to overcome a lot of fear and bring our line to the working class of Milwaukee. While navigating through a sea of revisionists and single issue groups, we reminded everyone around through our chants and our literature that communism is the only solution.

Planning a summer project in a city 30 minutes from where 17 year old Kyle Rittenhouse shot three workers - two fatally - for standing up against racism in August 2020 was no easy feat. Everyone involved felt fear particularly about the open carry status of Wisconsin and the potential for crazed MAGA supporters to show up. Through collective planning and action though, confidence took the place of fear and determination positioned us to provide leadership to the working class.

Local bosses, kkkops offer nothing but fascism

Milwaukee is historically one of the most segregated cities in the country. The working class there was left behind decades ago when bosses abandoned the city, moving their factories in the search for cheaper labor. Vacant lots, boarded up buildings, and encampments of unhoused workers just outside of the downtown area demonstrated the state in which the city has been left. The $200 million RNC bill after just four days could have certainly been put to better use for workers there.

A chunk of that huge bill went to showing workers of Milwaukee fascism up close and personal. 4500 cops were brought in from around the country in addition to the local city and state police, as well as the Secret Service. Concrete barricades were used well outside the perimeter of the convention to prevent residents from driving around downtown. Cages were set up ready to handle protests in the event of mass arrests.

There were dozens of security checkpoints. Cops used horses, bikes, and boats with M240 belt-fed machine guns to cover maximum ground.

Beating back revisionism

We bravely stared fascism in the face and carried out our plan to provide political leadership to the march. As revisionists and misleaders chanted “Si se puede" and “Power to the people',” we interjected, “Trump and Biden, all the same, racist terror is the name of the game” and “Free, free Palestine, fight for communism, now’s the time.” Many marchers joined our chants. Even those affiliated with the revisionist parties commented on their appreciation for our chant’s revolutionary fervor.

One young woman stayed with us the entire route. We shared a CHALLENGE with her and asked her why she chose us out of all the groups there. She said we are communists and she is a communist. Although only 16, she came to these ideas on her own and identified them in us through our chanting. She shared her address to receive a subscription to the paper and said she will join our events and potentially our organization once she turns 18.

Another woman was driving and honking alongside the first lap of the march, so we got her a newspaper. She came back around the second lap of the march and held CHALLENGE out of her car and screamed enthusiastically about what she read.

Workers need a real solution!

At the end of the day, everyone in earshot of the march knew that there are choices beyond Trump or Biden. They may not be ready to make that choice yet, but they will certainly remember that whether they were there to protect abortion rights, LGBTQ rights, or something else, PLP was there to remind them that abolishing capitalism and setting up a communist world is the only way to actualize their vision. We will take this momentum and use it to prepare for bringing the same message to the DNC next month. The struggle continues!

Letter: our adventures in the anti-RNC project

Some of us Kentucky comrades went to the Republican National Convention (RNC) to protest and immediately ran into fascist cops on old-school horses and bikes as well as boats in the water (when did the pigs learn circus tricks!). I used my scream-singing pitch for megaphone chants. It was a hit! It was cool to see other organizations we don't necessarily agree with coordinating chants and drums together. We also struggled with them by inserting our chants about class struggle as more and more of the crowd followed along. We took the road of "struggle with, struggle against!" We were able to distribute CHALLENGE widely including to many liberals, who were at least condemning genocide in Gaza. They were ready to criticize Small Fascist Republicans but not the Big Fascists (see glossary on page 6), so we included chants targeting both. One worker had a tattoo of our logo, the fist and star and didn't know the Party, so we gave him a CHALLENGE with the logo!

Next day, heading back to the RNC , we found out that the Ohio KKKops killed a homeless man in a Milwaukee encampment. That morning we also

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WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is night of Friday,August 9th

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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